



Eastern New Mexico University
Ruidoso Branch Community College

2024
Commencement
Ceremony

May 16, 2024 · 6:00 p.m.
Inn of the Mountain Gods



*For more information about ENMU-Ruidoso,
please visit the booth at the back of the audience seating.*



Processional

Pomp and Circumstance (*Audience Standing*)

Mace Carrier

Stephen Miller, *Director, Cybersecurity Center of Excellence;*
Professor, Information Systems & Cybersecurity

Mescalero Apache Blessing

Marilyn Blaylock, *Tribal Councilwoman*

Welcome and Introductions

Ryan Trospen, *President, ENMU-Ruidoso*

Presentation of the Colors

Mescalero Apache Veterans Association

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem “Star Spangled Banner”

(*Audience Standing*)

ENMU-Ruidoso Community Choir

Invocation

Murray Murphy, *Community College Board Member*

Tribal Welcome

Robert “Gabe” Aguilar, *Tribal Councilman*

Comments from the ENMU-Ruidoso Branch

Community College Board

Brad Treptow, *Chair*

Introduction of Distinguished Guests

Ryan Trospen

Mace Explained

Ryan Trospen

Acknowledgment of Faculty

Ryan Trosper

Presentation of President's Awards

Ryan Trosper

Student Commencement Speakers

Pete Lara, *High School Equivalency Diploma*

Valeria Chacon, *Hondo High School Dual Credit/Associate of Arts/
General Studies*

Kaydence Cervantes, *Ruidoso High School Dual Credit/Associate
of Arts/General Studies*

Tunte Izashe Baca, *Associate of Arts/Elementary Education*

“Wherever You Go” *Douglas Wagner, composer*

ENMU-Ruidoso Community Choir

Recognition of ENMU-Ruidoso Graduates

Ryan Trosper

Conferring of Certificates & Degrees

Dr. James Johnston, *Chancellor, ENMU System*

Presentation of Diplomas, Certificates and Degrees

Coda Omness, *Vice President, Student Learning and Success,
ENMU-Ruidoso*

Presentation of ENMU Portales Graduates

Bachelor's and Master's Degrees

Dr. James Johnston

Closing and Recessional

Ryan Trosper

Recessional

Pomp and Circumstance (*Audience Standing*)

Please remain standing until the academic Recessional has ended.

2024 President's Awards Recipients

Excellence in Teaching

Rochelle Elfelt, *Science Department Chair and Faculty*

Excellence in Adjunct Teaching

Mathew Hernandez, *Early Childhood Education Faculty*

Distinguished Service

John Rucker, *Director of Career and Technical Education*

Friend of the College

Dr. Clara Farah, *ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation Board Member, Community Education Positive Psychology Instructor, and Member of the Community Choir*



Student Speakers

Pete Lara *Ruidoso, NM*

New Mexico High School Equivalency

Pete Lara is from Las Cruces, NM. In 2020, he moved to Ruidoso, which he now calls home. He has completed his High School Equivalency with ENMU-Ruidoso and is currently taking college courses. He is passionate about helping youth and is looking forward to improving the lives of the youth in this community. He is currently working for High Mountain Youth Project.

Valeria Chacon *Hondo, NM*

Hondo High School Dual Credit / General Studies

Valeria Chacon was born and raised in Hondo, NM. She is working toward a major in the science of kinesiology. She has attended Hondo Valley Public Schools since Pre-K. Throughout high school, she has served as the volleyball co-captain and basketball captain for the past three years. Additionally, she has held the positions of student body president for two years and class president. Valeria has been honored as the basketball district player of the year and all-district player for four years. She has consistently made the superintendent's honor roll and received the P.E.O. Chapter AR Scholarship.

Valeria participates in various sports at her school, including volleyball, basketball, baile folklórico, and track and field, which have helped her forge friendships within her school and with students from other schools. She is also involved in Natural Helpers, a group dedicated to spreading kindness, positivity, and raising awareness about mental health. Valeria has been coaching little league basketball for the past few years, where she encourages elementary students to participate in sports and serves as a role model for them.

Juggling high school, college, sports, and coaching has been challenging for Valeria. However, she has learned the importance of mental preparedness and focus in achieving personal goals. Despite the challenges, Valeria remains determined and believes that hard work pays off. She has also learned to manage her time effectively to stay on track during the semester. In the future, Valeria hopes to pursue a career as a physical therapist and work with sports teams to improve their physical performance. Beyond her professional aspirations, she looks forward to raising a large, happy family.

Kaydence Cervantes *Mescalero, NM*

Ruidoso High School Dual Credit / General Studies

Kaydence Cervantes is a Dual Credit student at Ruidoso High School and ENMU-Ruidoso. She is 18 years old and has lived in the Mescalero Apache reservation since she was born. Being a Native American woman, she has had the opportunity to experience a coming-of-age ceremony known as a feast. With the opportunity to take part in this ceremony, she learned valuable life lessons about what it means to be a Mescalero Apache woman. She expresses gratitude for her supportive family who have stood by her side throughout her journey.

As a student of the 2024 Ruidoso High School class and ENMU-Ruidoso, Kaydence has consistently pursued excellence in her studies. With perseverance and dedication, she has been awarded several awards. In her freshman year, she earned an academic award for her exceptional performance in all of her classes. Subsequently, from her sophomore to senior years, she received the principal's award for her high grade-point average.

Beyond academics, Kaydence has been actively involved in extracurricular activities. She participated in the volleyball team during her freshman and sophomore years, seizing the opportunity to forge new connections and cultivate sportsmanship skills. Additionally, she served as a member of the National Honors Society and the Student Council, volunteering her time to contribute positively to the community, from participating in trash clean-up initiatives to assisting with the Wingfield Park garden.

Outside of her academic pursuits, Kaydence has diverse interests, including a passion for travel, particularly exploring nature. One of her main goals is to visit every National Park in the United States. She also enjoys indoor activities like reading and assembling large puzzles. As she looks ahead to the future, she will pursue a career in the medical field. She plans to major in biology and later attain a master's degree. Looking toward her future, she aspires to pursue a career in the medical field, intending to major in biology. Kaydence credits her teachers and instructors at Ruidoso High School and Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso for challenging her to excel academically and preparing her for the next chapter of her life.

cont.

Tunte Izashe Baca *Mescalero, NM*

Associate Degree / Elementary Education

Tunte Izashe Baca will be graduating with an Associate Degree in Elementary Education from ENMU-Ruidoso. Her future goal is to further her education at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales to obtain a bachelor's degree in the same field. Her goal is to use her passion in teaching to inspire others to pursue careers in this much-needed field specific to Indigenous communities. Currently, Tunte has founded and incorporated a local Podcast – “Small Town Rez Girls” along with her co-partner, to connect with all Indigenous communities in Indian Country. Her recent interview was with a well-known Indigenous Rap artist. As someone who enjoys challenging projects, she is confident she can reach Indigenous youth to address the struggles and challenges in Indian Country that are faced with positive solutions for change.

As an Indigenous woman, Tunte has encountered many challenges throughout her educational pursuits while attending other colleges. At ENMU-Ruidoso, she found the staff, financial officers and advisors to be quite helpful in assisting in any difficulties she was experiencing, whether with financial aid or required classes. The positive experience has been valuable in obtaining the first step of her goal.



CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

◇ *With Honors* ◇ *PTK Honor Society* ◇ *Ambassador Club*

DIPLOMAS

New Mexico High School Equivalency

Fernanda Valdez Ayala
Sebastian Beltran
Leif Bymoan
Raymond Carreon
James Coleman
Jessi Dentler
Sean Eisenberg

Silas Laspada
Pete Lara
Amelia Lopez
Veronica Ochoa
Zachary Phillips
Bethanee Schumann Gearhart
Colten Sidwell

CERTIFICATES

Certificate of Completion

Bookkeeping/Accounting

Lorena Martinez
Margaret Rivera ✧
Alexis Renea Woodward ✧

CAE Cybersecurity Workforce Development

Jace C. Blea ✧
Maryna Davis ✧
Timothy Ray Hardison ✧
Jaron Brant Knighten ✧
Jenny Eliza Rosario ✧

Child Development

Allyson Loraine Burrola ✧
Nayeli Chavira-Rodriguez ✧
Krissy Lee Gillock ✧
Cynthia Jaqueline Vasquez Gonzalez ✧
Mayra Daniela Palomares Hinojos ✧
Siobhan Moire O'Doherty ✧
Coda Lee Sanchez
Imelda Torres
Sarah Jane Wetzal

Computer and Network Security

Eric Simonson ✧
Nathan Benjamin Sims ✧

Construction Trades Core

Duncan Caleb Daughtery
Thomas Michael Featherstone
Rudy Daniel Lucero ✧
Rafael Martinez Silva
Robert D. Simpson ✧
Tristan Charles Roling

Core Curriculum

Brighton Paul Chittenden ✧
Everett Lee Chittenden
Alyson Christine Clark ✧
Yamile Nahomi Horta-Becerra ✧
Elizabeth Rose Kennedy ✧
Giselle Elizabeth Medina ✧
Alondra Perez-Rios

Welding Technology

Dylan Anthony Scallan ✧

Certificate of Occupational Training

Culinary Arts

Andrew Michael Chavez
Alexa Leigh Martinez

Nursing Assistant

Kylie Bell Adams ✧
Sage Ann Bennett ✧
Ellie Elizabeth Beug
Alyssa Sarah-Marie Burch ✧
Lesly Abril Cardenas ✧
Tyler Jacob Carrera ✧
Kaydence Jean Cervantes ✧
Jayden Kayleigh Comenero
Tehzeeb Fatima

Karime Yhoseline Fernandez
Chacon ✧

Zimiya Kalyse Daniel
Juliana Elisa Davila-Rocha ✧
K'hari Alyce Garcia
Sharon Lester
Alexa Leigh Martinez
Daija Marjorie Martinez ✧
Rebecca Montoya ✧
Erick George Polaco ✧
Iridian Adeliza Lucero Quezada ✧
Gabriel Rodriguez
Marisa Lucy Romero ✧

Certificate of Occupational Training, *cont.*

Jessica Marie Sainz	Jael Gonzalez-Hernandez
Auren Smiley ✧	Alexa Leigh Martinez
Taylor Rene Taylor ✧✧	Giselle Elizabeth Medina ✧
Shaylee Erin Tsinnijinnie ✧	Pre-Nursing
Belen Valles-Escobar ✧	Jael Gonzalez-Hernandez
Phlebotomy	Angelica Alexa Pizarro ✧
Sarai Alcalá ✧	Kelsie Marie Guevara

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

Associate of Applied Science

Business Administration	Sharissa Marie Jacquez ✧
Stacey Kaye Morris ✧	Jaron Brant Knighten ✧
Kristy Silva	Sierra Johnna Lizarraga ✧
Emergency Medical Services	Christian E. Lopez ✧
Sean David Keller ✧	Brenda Vanessa Martinez
Jolene Lois Tisnolthtos ✧	James Michael Neal ✧
Information Systems Cybersecurity	Kelly Thomas Stratton ✧
Rita Burrola Espinoza	Todd Villemez
Cory Matthew Hughes	Stephen DeMond Washington

Associate of Arts

Business Administration	Isaiah Seth Ysasi
Gloria Isabel Santamaria de Schwetz ✧	Adam Matthew Zamora ✧
Calsey Tisnolthtos	General Studies
Criminal Justice	Sarai Y. Alcalá ✧
Tonjah Marie Beier	Kaydence Jean Cervantes ✧
Hilda Nayely Herrera-Picazo	Valeria Chacon ✧
Jayli Wain Johnson	Jaxon Theodore Draper ✧
Early Childhood Care and Education	Rochelle Flores ✧
Mayjah Rose Cervantes ✧	Lisa Marie Garcia
Francis Kinzhuma	Abriana Marie Herrera
Amanda Leigh Martinez ✧	Ruben Adrian Herrera
Corina Michelle Morales	Brian Jay Ketner ✧
Delilah Arae Treas ✧	Ramie Leeann Kinney ✧
Elementary/Special Education	Linda Lozano
Tunte Izashe Baca ✧	Jacob Thomas McCaw
	Alexa Leigh Martinez
	Daija Marjorie Martinez
	Theresa Ann Matuszek-Myers

Alyssa Montelongo ✧
Zachary Kennon Musgrave
Ty Griffin Oberhue ✧
Liane Alejandra Perez-Pantoja ✧
Ezra Tate Rabourn ✧
Kayla Gemaine Randall
Elena Elizabeth Sainz
Rema Alethia Spitty
Kinsey E. Weatherford
Orion C. Wyatt ✧

Psychology
Joselin Frias ✧
Secondary Education
Daisy Luellen Pierce
University Studies
Quianz Obana Echavia ○
Valerie Nicole Lomax ✧
Judy A. Portillo-Martinez
Rhettford Ray Romack ✧

Associate of Science

Pre-Nursing

Hannah Kathleen O'Bryant ✧

BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Bachelor of Science

Early Childhood Education *Pre-K through 3rd Grade*

Jessica L. Comanche

Leticia Pantoja Lewis *Cum Laude*

Sociology

Minor: Psychology

Brittany A. Aguilar

Bachelor of University Studies

Business/Management

Victoria Marlene Barios

MASTER'S DEGREES

Master of Education

Concentration: Reading and Literacy

Kimerli C. Affuso ✧

Master of Science

Physical Education *Sports Administration*

RaLynne Stanbrough ✧



The Mace

Academic maces – staffs of wood, metal or gems – descended from war clubs carried in medieval times by the bodyguards of civil officers. Maces have their roots even earlier than the Roman Empire. Carried before a consul, maces were used to restore order and implement court-ordered rulings. An academic mace symbolizes the authority invested in the president by a university's governing body. When the authority is present, the mace is present. That is why the mace is an integral part of commencement exercises, where students are invested with degrees by the lawful authority of the university. Eastern New Mexico University's mace was designed and crafted by Mr. Greg Senn, art professor, in spring 2007. It is an honor for the mace to be loaned to ENMU-Ruidoso Branch Community College for this occasion.



Academic Regalia

Academic costumes worn during commencement trace their origin to the Middle Ages. Each European college or university had a set of garments that indicated the wearers' status. In the United States, an intercollegiate system of academic costumes has been in use since 1895. The tradition of wearing academic costumes places scholarship above personal preference and current fashion. The academic procession symbolizes the continuity of the tradition of learning and the search for truth throughout the centuries.

High School Equivalency recipients wear a light blue robe or gown. Associate Degree recipients wear a royal blue robe or gown. The tassel on the mortarboards are royal blue and orange. Bachelor's degree recipients wear a black robe or gown. The tassel color on the mortarboard indicates the discipline. Master's Degree recipients wear hoods draped down the back of the robe. The colorful edging identifies the field of study.

Candidates for the undergraduate degree wear the tassel on the right side of the cap at commencement. After degrees are conferred, baccalaureate degree recipients turn the tassel to the left side of the cap indicating that they are now graduates.

Graduation with Honors

ENMU-Ruidoso students may earn the following academic honors, which are noted after recipients' names in the program and indicated by honor cords worn with the graduation robe. *With Honors*: Honors are awarded to students who complete their program with a cumulative overall grade point average of 3.5 or better are identified by a gold cord. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the largest and most respected honor society serving two-year colleges. PTK regalia is gold with a navy blue cord. Cumulative GPAs are calculated after the last grading period prior to the student's final

enrollment. Students whose final enrollment grades change their graduation status will have diplomas reordered to reflect the new honor status.

Philanthropy Cords

ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation is offering graduates a special opportunity to wear philanthropy cords during the graduation ceremony. Each cord represents the graduate by his or her classification. The Blue cord honors the New Mexico High School Equivalency Graduates. The Orange cord honors the Associate Degree Graduates and the Silver and Green cord honors the Bachelor's and Master's Degree Graduates. The cords are available to all graduates for a contribution which helps to fund future projects at the College.



ENMU-Ruidoso Branch Community College

Administration

Ryan Trosper, *President*
Coda Omness, *Vice President, Student Learning and Success*
Dr. Karen Massey, *Chief Business Officer*
Robin DeMott, *Chief External Affairs Officer*

Faculty

Caitlin Cooley, *Faculty, Department Chair, Mathematics*
Rochelle Elfelt, *Faculty, Department Chair, Science*
Jeff Frawley, *Professor, Department Chair, Language & Fine Arts*
Joel Hutchins, *Associate Professor, Cybersecurity*
Laura Vazquez Lopez, *Faculty, English*
John McCullough, *Professor, Department Chair, Business*
Stephen Miller, *Professor and Director, Cybersecurity Center of Excellence*
Cleo Mow, *Faculty, Department Chair, Education*
Bonnie Torrez, *Instructor, Adult Education*

Community Choir Members

Cindy Buenrostro	Barbara Giesecke	Dick Mastin
Dolores Chacon	Chelsea Ivey	Milly Mastin
Delana Clements	Jane Hoover	Barbara Severance
Michael Clements	Russell Hughes	Valerie Silva
Linda Cockrel	Suzanne Hughes	Anne Speights
Dr. Clara Farah	Dan Jones	Audrey Turner
Susan Finch	Paula Lasky	Melba Valdez
Estella Flores		

Community College Board

Brad Treptow, *Chair*

Marla Frye-Romero, *Secretary*

Colt Harrelson, Murray Murphy and Rachael Rosillo, *Members*

ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation Board

Dr. Lynn F. Willard, *President*

Sandy Gladden, *Vice President*

Leslie Sisk, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Dr. Clayton Alfred, Leslie Graham, Eric Eggleston, Cheri LaCounte,

Dr. Clara Farah and Lisa McMinn, *Members*

ENMU System Board of Regents

Trish Ruiz, *Regent President*

Ray Birmingham, *Regent Vice President*

Logan O'Brien, *Student Regent*

Lance Pyle and Phillip Bustos, *Members*

ENMU System Administration

Dr. James Johnston, *ENMU System Chancellor*

Tony Major, *ENMU System Chief Financial Officer*


Benito Gonzales, *ENMU System Executive Director Human Resources,
Policy and Planning*

ENMU Portales Administration

Dr. Jamie Laurenz, *Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Dr. Christy Johanson, *Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment
Management*

Warren Lloyd, *Vice President for Advancement and Public Relations*


*Thank You to the ENMU-Ruidoso Foundation
for providing the Caps and Gowns to all students
who walked in the Graduation Ceremony*

Special Thank You to Inn of the Mountain Gods

